

# Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area Planning Newsletter

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## Where we've been and where we're going

As you are aware, we completed a feasibility study that established the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area. The Governor officially approved this in March 2002. Copies of this final report are available by contacting Jill Mrotek, 1125 N. Military Ave., Green Bay, WI 54307 or at the website [www.dnr.state.wi.us/master\\_planning/wolf](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/master_planning/wolf). Now that a project has been established we will begin a master planning process.

### Master Planning for Department Properties

The Department will prepare a master plan for the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area, which includes several existing state properties. These properties are Navarino, Deer Creek, Maine, Wolf River Bottoms - K&S and LaSage Units, Outagamie, Mack, Mukwa, Wolf River, and Rat River Wildlife Areas; Hortonville Bog and Shaky Lake State Natural Areas; and the Wolf River Fishery and remnant fishery areas.

A master plan spells out how the property will be managed, used, and developed; how it will look; and what benefits it will provide. The master plan identifies goals and objectives. It

defines recreational uses, forest, wildlife, and other land management practices.

As with the feasibility process, during the master planning process we intend to involve those interested in the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural



Resources Area in open and meaningful ways. Enclosed we have outlined our process for involving you over the next several months.

### Inventory and Data

The planning team has been working on collecting historical and current

information on the resources. Much of this information is compiled into a Regional Analysis report for the project. A draft of the regional analysis will be available soon, but due to the volume of information in the document, the planning team will be preparing easier, brief fact sheets for people to use.

As part of inventory and data collection, the Bureau of Endangered Resources prepared a biotic inventory and analysis titled *Wolf River Basin Biotic Inventory and Analysis* - April 2002. This report provides results from a three-year biotic inventory effort for the basin. Limited copies of the report are available (approx. 250 page report) by contacting Jill Mrotek.

### Vision and Goals

During the feasibility process we developed a proposed vision and goals

for the project (see side box). We would continue to use these as a draft set of vision and goals for the project. They will remain draft until a final master plan is approved. Using these will also allow us to have a base upon which we develop more detailed, property specific objectives.

### Develop & Evaluate Potential Management Alternatives

This is the next phase in the planning process. This involves providing detailed information about resource capabilities, opportunities, developing alternatives, and discussing their impacts. We would begin this phase with a series of fact sheets on natural resource conditions and issues. We expect to start this process this fall. More information explaining this

## Chronic Wasting Disease

Many of you are probably aware that Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is an important issue in the Department right now. There are many efforts being made to understand the statewide impacts to the deer herd. This upcoming hunting season will be extremely important and busy. It will require a lot of Department staff time and resources. Because of CWD and a nearing hunting season, we will need to wait until early 2003 before having any public meetings for the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area. We anticipate sending newsletters in the interim. We appreciate your patience with us through this fall deer season, before we begin this planning effort.

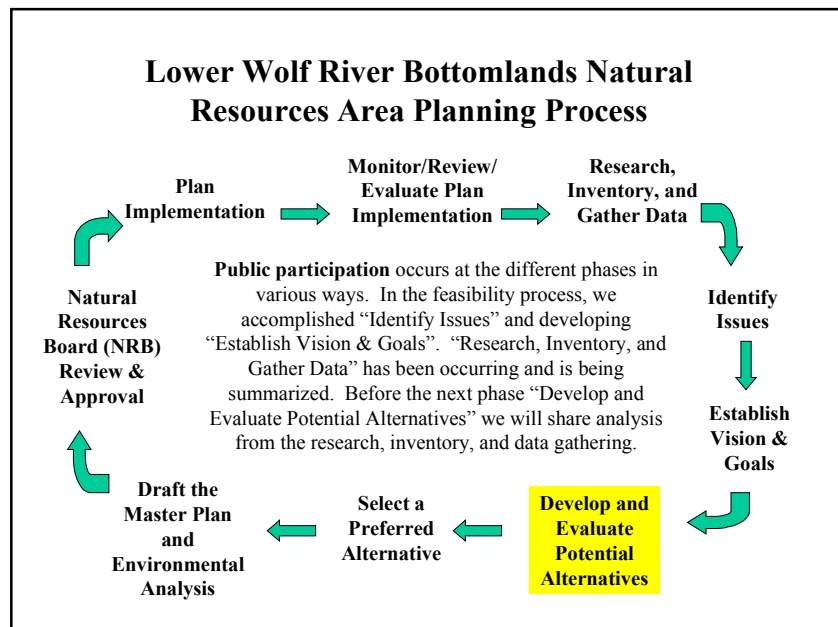
process will be sent in future mailings.

### Writing a Draft Master Plan

After we have developed, evaluated, and selected a preferred management alternative(s), the planning team would then prepare the master plan and environmental analysis (EA). This information would be shared and available to comment on. Upon completion of the public review, we would submit the master plan and EA to the Natural Resources Board for approval.

### Plan Implementation

The plan would begin to be implemented, monitored, and reviewed. Typically, master plans are to be reviewed every 15 years according to NR 44. Approaches for you to have continued involvement in master plan implementation will be included in the final master plan.



### Next Steps

For the remainder of the year, we would like to begin to share the data analysis information. We will send more details on how we will share the analysis information in future mailings.

Unfortunately, we do not expect to hold any public meetings until early 2003. We will continued to keep you informed of our progress. ☺

## Proposed Vision and Goals

*(Developed as part of the feasibility process for the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area with participants)*

### Vision

The Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area will be managed recognizing the interconnectedness of air, water, and land in sustaining ecosystems in balance with local cultural and economic values. In partnership with citizens as stewards of the natural resources, we work to protect, restore, maintain, and enhance healthy, diverse ecosystems and the natural scenic beauty of the corridor, while providing compatible recreational pursuits and educational opportunities for current and future generations.

### Proposed Goals

The land along the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands is protected through ecologically sound management decisions that reflect long-term considerations for healthy ecosystems.

The Lower Wolf River Bottomlands protects the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater resources.

All citizens share the responsibility for the stewardship of the natural resources in the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands for the benefit of current and future generations.

The public has opportunities to experience a diverse range of compatible outdoor recreational and educational activities that enhance the quality of life and economy within the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands.

The Lower Wolf River Bottomlands provides opportunities to preserve agricultural land through creative land management options.



